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Umno-motion (thanks)

MSC OPENS UP ACCESS TO INFORMATION RICH ERA TO MALAYSIANS

KUALA LUMPUR, 5 Sept (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir has come up with one idea after another including the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) to ensure that the Malays and Malaysia achieve success and gain respect of the world, the Umno general assembly was told today.

"The MSC has opened up access to information rich era to Malaysians ... MSC provides not only benefits to Malaysians but also the world," said Hamdi Abu Bakar, a delegate from Perak when supporting the motion of thanks for the presidential address at the meeting held at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here.

The motion to thank Dr Mahathir for his keynote address was earlier tabled by Zaiyadi Awang Nor, an Umno Youth delegate.

Hamdi said that what the government was doing was in line with the call of Islam to its mankind to achieve progress through knowledge and information.

A Kedah delegate, Datuk Haji Badruddin Haji Amiruldin, meanwhile, suggested that the government set up "Amanah Saham Harta Bumiputera" to help Malays to develop reserve land.

He said setting up a trust fund would be better than mortgaging Malay reserve land to others like Land and Cooperative Development Ministry.

Collections could be made and when the Malays had enough money they could buy the reserve land, he said, hoping that the setting up of the trust fund could be expedited by the government.

Terengganu delegate Abdul Rahim Mohamad Said, in debating the motion, suggested that an integrated programme be implemented to expose and educate the rural population on Information Technology (IT), similar to what the government did to eradicate illiteracy in the 70s.

Such effort was important in ensuring that those in the rural would not be left behind in IT, said the delegate who also proposed that Dr Mahathir be given the title "Tokoh Muamalah Dunia" for introducing Islamic business concept in the country.

Abu Bakar Ismail, a delegate from Perlis, meanwhile, suggested that Umno maintained existing leadership in the party and the government.

He said that any change in the leadership should be looked from the perspective of the interest of Umno's political struggle as well as that of the Barisan Nasional (BN) government.

"Don't make changes just to give opportunities to newcomers," he said, adding that change should be made when it was appropriate to do so.

A Pulau Pinang delegate, Tajul Arus Nordin, meanwhile, suggested that Umno postponed all elections within party until the next general elections.

"Under the present circumstances, we shouldn't be thinking of pushing up who to the top or toppling who," he said.

He said what Umno really needed at present was stability and effective leadership at all levels.

Pahang delegate, Abdul Fatah Abdullah suggested the setting up of a mechanism within the party to remind members of the importance of strengthening the party.

He also proposed that a summarised version of "Dilema Melayu" or Malay written by Dr Mahathir produced to make his message clear.

Zaiyadi, in tabling the motion, said Muslims should strive to be an excellent society whose actions become examples to others.

"We should not be influenced by western thinking to the extent that we

interpret Islam and its teachings like people in the west," he said.

Eight delegates spoke at today's debate before it was adjourned until tomorrow. --BERNAMA

ARA NAK ABG